

2013 Special Events

Tennessee State Parks and Natural Areas

www.tnstateparks.com

www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/

MARCH

Bicentennial Capitol Mall (middle) hosts Kites and Kids on March 23

Come down to the park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to fly a kite and learn about how to have a healthy, active lifestyle. For more information, contact 741-5280, or email cara.alexander@tn.gov.

Nathan Bedford Forrest (west) hosts Easter Egg Hunt on March 23

A prize egg is awarded in each age group. Age divisions are: 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-9 years and 10-12 years. Be sure to bring your cameras for a picture with the Easter Bunny. The fun begins at 1 p.m. CT. For more information call 731-584-6356.

Walls of Jericho SNA (plateau) hosts Early Spring Hike on March 23

Journey through the springtime beauty of the Walls of Jericho State Natural Area in Franklin County. This strenuous 8-mile hike descends 600 feet into the "Walls" and continues along the creek to an amazing canyon of sheer rock bluffs, caves, and waterfalls. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. This hike is strenuous and participants should be in good physical condition. The trip will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Meet at 7:30 a.m. CT at the Nashville Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow 5330 Cane Ridge Rd Antioch, TN 37013. We will carpool and caravan from here. Reservations required: RSVP by March 22 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431, or Forrest.Evans@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, go to www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/jericho. For nearby lodging and camping, visit www.tn.gov/environment/parks/TimsFord/.

Taylor Hollow SNA (middle) hosts Early Spring Hike on March 23

As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area is renowned for its floral display and a number of state-listed plant species. The Division of Natural Areas normally leads hikes at Taylor Hollow during the peak wildflower season in mid to late April, but visitors often miss seeing some of the earliest flowering plants such as harbinger of spring, yellow fumewort, Dutchman's breeches, and squirrel corn. Along with the earliest spring wildflowers and their ecology, we'll discuss bark and bud characteristics of trees at the beginning of the growing season. We'll also see the diminutive, yet showy, state-endangered least trillium (*Trillium pusillum*). The hike is moderate, but those accustomed to hiking should have no problems. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring water and snacks. We will meet at 10 a.m. CT in front of 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland, in northeast

Sumner County. Leader: Roger McCoy, roger.mccoy@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: www.tn.gov/environment/na/. For nearby camping, please go to www.tn.gov/environment/parks/BledsoeCreek/.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Garlic Mustard Pull on March 23 (tentative)
Calling all volunteers! Now is the time for all lovers of "The Roan" to pitch in to help battle the terrible invaders on her doorstep. We're going to concentrate on pulling garlic mustard along the Highway 143 roadside and inside the state park. This event will follow on the heels of our very successful (!) 2012 garlic mustard pull to keep the pressure on and try to rid the mountain of this terrible plant. Pulling garlic mustard is very easy. Volunteers will only need to bring their personal gear (good footwear, layered clothes, water, lunch, hat, gloves, etc.). Bags for disposing of the garlic mustard will be provided. If we pull the mustard for about 5 years, we should be able to get rid of it and then just monitor and pull the few stragglers that will pop up after that. It's amazing how much you can get done in just a short while with just a few dedicated pullers! Meet at 9 a.m. ET. Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, Lisa.Huff@tn.gov
Information on nearby lodging at Roan Mountain State Park can be found here <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/>.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts Guided Wildflower Hikes on March 23 & 24
Celebrate spring and its entire splendor by getting outside and enjoying a guided hike led by a park interpretive ranger & special guest naturalists! Hikes will focus on the various species of flowers blooming along the trail. For more information please contact the park office at 931-686-2471.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Garrison Weekend on March 23 & 24
Garrison Weekend is a time when the daily lives of the men, women and children of Fort Loudoun are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at Fort Loudoun. Visitors can view an 18th century infirmary, the soldier's barracks, the commander's quarters, blacksmith shop and a Cherokee encampment. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Harpeth River (middle) hosts Mississippian Culture in Mound Bottom on March 24
Join us 1 p.m. CT for a ranger led hike to view the Mississippian Period Indian Mound Complex known as Mound Bottom. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Reservations are required. Max 15 people. Canceled if rain. For more information and to RSVP call 615-952-2099.

Harpeth River (middle) hosts Narrows of the Harpeth Hike on March 24
Enjoy a moderate 1 mile hike through the Narrows of the Harpeth. Includes a brief history of Montgomery Bell's tunnel and iron forge. Meet at 10 a.m. CT. Max 15 people. For more information and to RSVP call 615-952-2099.

Dunbar Cave (middle) hosts Wildflower Hike on March 26
Flowers are beginning to bloom! Join us from 9 - 11:30 a.m. CT to learn the names, stories and uses of our wildflowers. This hike is geared to younger wildflower enthusiasts, ages 5-12. Children must be accompanied by an adult (one adult for every three children). The age limits are definite – please do not sign up a child who is too young or too old for the program. Reservations are required. Please RSVP by 4:30 p.m.

CT on March 24. We will meet at the visitor's center. For more information and to RSVP call 931-648-5526.

Dunbar Cave (middle) hosts Woods Walk on March 28

Join the park ranger for an all-ages hike to see and learn about the trees, flowers, birds, turtles and other animals that live in the woods. Reservations are required by 4:30 p.m. CT on March 26. We will meet at the visitor's center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and to RSVP call 931-648-5526.

David Crockett hosts Good Friday Twilight Hike on March 29

Meet Ranger Rachel at 6:30 p.m. CT at the Crockett Museum (the mill next to the covered bridge) for an evening hike as the sun goes down and the night world comes to life! Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. For more information email Rachel.Bridges@tn.gov or call 931-762-9408.

David Crockett hosts Owl Prowl on March 30

Meet Ranger Rachel at 7:30 p.m. CT at the Crockett Museum (the mill next to the covered bridge) for the chance to call an owl. Bring a flashlight and your listening ears! Dress for the weather. For more information email Rachel.Bridges@tn.gov or call 931-762-9408.

Montgomery Bell hosts Hall Springs Night Hike on March 30

Join Ranger Walsh for a night hike to Hall Springs and learn why it has the nickname Werewolf spring. Meet at the park office at 7 p.m. CT to carpool to the starting location. Bring your flashlights and dress for the weather. Anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and to RSVP call 615-797-9052.

Old Stone Fort (middle) hosts Nature Day on March 30

Kick off spring at Old Stone Fort's Nature Day! Guided bird and wildflower hikes will be led by park staff, State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath and Tennessee State Parks' Regional Interpreters. Additional programming includes Birds of Prey and Snakes! Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. CT. Guests may also enjoy a visit to the museum, (open 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT) to learn why the Old Stone Fort mound site is believed to have served as a central ceremonial gathering place for Native Americans for some 500 years and has been identified as the largest and most complex hilltop enclosure in the south. For more information call 931-723-5073.

Fort Pillow (west) hosts annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30

All kids age 10 and under are invited to hunt Easter Eggs at the annual Egg Hunt. There will be prizes awarded in different age groups. Meet at the Picnic Pavilion at 2 p.m. CT to register. For more information call 731-738-5581.

T.O. Fuller (west) hosts Easter Egg Hunt on March 30

Join us at 2 p.m. CT for our 8th annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chucalissa Indian Village & Museum at T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis. Open for ages 3-15. Parents must be present, but are not allowed to touch any eggs. Eggs are plastic filled with candy inside. Bigger prizes are given away for special finds. This event is always held the Saturday before Easter. For more information please call 901-543-7581.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts Easter Egg Hunt on March 30
Campground and cabin guests can enjoy a day full of spring fun, including Tie Dye, Easter games, meeting the Easter Bunny, and hunting for Easter eggs! For more information please contact the park office at 931-686-2471.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Easter Egg Hunt on March 30
Bring the kids out and let them enjoy Easter by hunting eggs in the park. 12-2 p.m. ET. Meet at the Amphitheater. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts Easter Egg Hunt on March 30
Children, ages 12 and under, are invited to hunt for over 20,000 thousand candy filled Easter eggs and \$300 in prizes. Bring your baskets and be ready for a great day of hunting. Hunt starts at 1 p.m. CT below park dam. For more information call Stevie Plumlee at 931-823-6347.

Big Ridge (east) hosts 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30
12,000 eggs, each with a prize or candy, will be divided up between four separate age groups! Some eggs will have extra prizes, with a grand prize in each group. Different groups run at different times, so be sure to call ahead for your age groups. Bring the whole family and spend the day at the park! Contact the park office at 865-992-5523.

Norris Dam (east) hosts annual Spring Wildflower Hikes on March 30
Join State Park and TVA staff for guided hikes along the cool Clinch River, one of the most diverse pathways of wildflower concentrations in the region. Hikes will begin both days at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the River Bluff trailhead and 2 p.m. ET at the Lower Clear Creek trailhead, located at the Rice's Gristmill. Free to all. Registration not required. For more information contact Ranger Mike Scott at the Norris Dam State Park office at 865-426-7461.

Ghost River SNA (west) hosts Plant Walk on March 30
This early spring trip will visit a rather large population of Southern Twayblade (*Listera australis*), known from only two counties in Tennessee. This small orchid is the earliest blooming native orchid in Tennessee. We will also visit the sandhill community where sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*) occurs and look for other early spring plants. This trip will also be part of the Tennessee Native Plant Society schedule of outings. The walk is considered easy to moderate. Boots are recommended due to possible muddy locations. Please bring lunch. There is no set time to how long the event will last. Participants are free to leave anytime during the day. Leaders: Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist and Bart Jones, Tennessee Native Plant Society. Reservations required: RSVP before 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 28th to Mr. Trently at 731-512-1369 or at allan.trently@tn.gov Meet at the intersection of Hwy 57 and Yager Rd. at caution light in LaGrange at 10 a.m. CT. Directions: From Memphis, follow Poplar Ave. (Hwy 57) through Collierville, Rossville, and Moscow to LaGrange. From Jackson, TN and points east take Hwy 18 south through Bolivar and Hickory Valley, turn right onto Hwy 57 and go west two miles to LaGrange. For more information on Ghost River State Natural Area, including descriptions, directions, and maps, visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/ghostriver

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Easter Weekend on March 30 & 31
Join us in the Village Area for an Easter egg hunt on Saturday. A morning sunrise service will be offered at Millikan's Overlook on Sunday morning. For more information call 423-881-5708.

David Crockett (middle) hosts Easter Hike on March 31
Join ranger Rachel at 2 p.m. CT to enjoy Easter Sunday with a short hike after lunch. We will meet at the park restaurant and hike approximately 1-mile, while enjoying nature and learning some unique park history. For those interested in dining at the park, the restaurant will be serving an Easter Feast from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. CT. For more information call the restaurant at 931-762-9541. For more information about the hike email Rachel.Bridges@tn.gov or call 931-762-9408.

APRIL

Tennessee State Natural Areas Week, April 6 -14

Reelfoot Lake (west) hosts Deep Swamp Canoe Trips on April 1 - 29
Join our experienced naturalist for a half-day canoe float through seldom explored areas of Reelfoot Lake. Observe old growth cypress forest, a heron rookery and an eagle nest as we leisurely paddle through the cypress swamp. Large fish swimming, ducks taking flight, and an occasional snake making an appearance add excitement to the trip. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle usually show up to check out the canoeist. Trips depart from Reelfoot Lake State Park's visitor center at 8 a.m. CT on weekends in March and April. Cost is \$20.00 if park canoe is used. Private canoes are no charge. We suggest you bring snacks, drinks, a change of clothes, a camera and binoculars in a waterproof, floatable container. Please call Reelfoot Lake State Park's visitor center for reservations and additional information at 731-253-9652.

Fort Pillow (west) hosts Park Day on April 6
Sponsored by the History Channel and the Civil War Preservation Trust, Park Day invites volunteers to help clean up their favorite historic site – Fort Pillow State Park! We will begin at 9 a.m. CT and lunch will be provided. Shirts and patches will be given to the first 80 participants. For more information and to RSVP call 731-738-5581.

Norris Dam (east) hosts Annual Spring Wildflower Hikes on April 6
Join State Park and TVA staff for guided hikes along the cool Clinch River, one of the most diverse pathways of wildflower concentrations in the region. Hikes will begin both days at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET at the River Bluff trailhead and 2 p.m. ET at the Lower Clear Creek trailhead, located at the Rice's Gristmill. Free to all. Registration not required. For more information contact Ranger Mike Scott at the Norris Dam State Park office at 865-426-7461.

David Crockett hosts Family Field Day on April 6
Join park staff and the Friends of David Crockett for a day in the park! Family-friendly activities include games, hikes, and lots of fun. Bring a picnic lunch and stay the whole day or come and go. Activities kick off at 10 a.m. and continue through 2 p.m. CT. For more information email Rachel.Bridges@tn.gov or call 931-762-9408.

Long Hunter hosts Park Clean-up Day on April 6

April marks the return of our monthly Park Cleanup Day organized by the Friends of Long Hunter State Park. These events will be on the first Saturday of each month and are open to everyone. Participants should meet at the park office at 11 a.m. CT. Participants are also welcome to arrive earlier and attend the monthly Friends of Long Hunter meeting at 10 a.m. CT; the meeting will be a great opportunity to learn about all the exciting things happening at the park and with the Friends group. Thanks to Friends member Mike Panesi for organizing our cleanup days. For more info, contact Mike at mpanesi@gmail.com.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts 32nd annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage on April 6 & 7 This is a very special weekend! We will explore the park and see many early spring wildflowers and breathtaking views. A variety of hikes, workshops, driving tours, and slideshows will be offered. For more information call 423-881-5708.

Edgar Evins (middle) hosts Wild Hyacinth Treks on April 6 & 7

Join us for a guided hike up to the Merritt Ridge Trail to view one of the largest known stands of Wild Hyacinths in middle Tennessee! This is a moderate–strenuous hike but we will take our time. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, bring water and a snack. Approximately 4 miles. Don't forget that camera! Meet in the parking lot next to the Millennium trailhead at 10 a.m. CT. For more information contact mark.taylor@tn.gov or 615-931-858-2114.

Cumberland Mountain (plateau) hosts Volunteer Day on April 7

Come join us to help clear the Byrd Creek Trail Run route for the upcoming 15K run May 4. Volunteers are needed to help re-blaze the trail, trim back limbs and briars, and move other obstructions on the trail (down trees and branches). We will cover certain sections of this trail each day. Volunteers will meet the park ranger at the park office at 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and a lunch. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing. Looking forward to working with all the volunteers!! Additional date: April 21. For more information call Ranger Monica Johnson at 931-484-6138 or email monica.johnson@tn.gov.

South Cumberland (plateau) hosts Trails and Trilliums on April 12-14

Mark your calendars now for this 3-day festival celebrating the South Cumberland. A highlight of the 2013 event will be a keynote address by David Haskell, author of the acclaimed book, *The Forest Unseen*, on Saturday night during Wine & Wildflowers. Haskell, who will also lead guided walks on Saturday and Sunday, will be honored as the recipient of the Yeatman Environmental Education Award. Key events of the three-day festival include 15 varied hikes on some of the South Cumberland's most beautiful trails, a great selection of native plants, the "Brush with Nature" preview party /art sale on Friday night, the Cumberland Wild Forum, music and vendors. A focus on families continues during Trails & Trilliums. "Ramble", the State Parks' raccoon mascot will be on hand along with native critters and an introduction to rock climbing. Proceeds from the weekend support South Cumberland State Park, the largest state wilderness park in Tennessee. For more information about registration and admission fees and a complete schedule visit www.trailsandtrilliums.org.

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts 10th annual Spring Naturalist Rally on April 12 & 13

Join our park's special guests, at the Standing Stone Naturalist Rally, for a fun, educational experience as we take a jaunt through Standing Stone's wild woods and

natural history. Regardless if you're a nature enthusiast or just enjoy a walk in the woods the rally has something to offer everyone. We hope you will come, enjoy your visit, and learn much about the natural history of the area. For more information call Shawn Hughes 931-823-6347.

Edgar Evins (middle) hosts 44th annual Celebration of Spring on April 13
Free day of outdoor fun for families and individuals, including nature hikes, wild animal shows, face painting, living history, old fashioned 3-legged and sack races, kite flying, live entertainment, boat rides, crafting, cupcake or cookie decorating, prizes and more. Bring a lunch to enjoy the whole day. The day's activities will begin at 8 a.m. at the Visitors Center with registration for all and sign-ups for the events that have a maximum number of participants. Activities that have limits are the popular nature hikes led by Ranger Mark Taylor, Holly Taylor and Danny L. Bryan, Assistant Professor of Biology at Cumberland University, as well as the approximately 45 minutes long pontoon boat rides for adults and children (over 3 years accompanied by an adult). For questions call the park office: 1-800-250-8619 or 931-858-2114. On the web at: <http://foeesp.ne1.net> or <http://www.facebook.com/friendsfoeesp>

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts Spring Wildflower Walk on April 13
Join special guest (TBA) for a jaunt thru Standing Stone State Park's beautiful wildflower collection. Walk begins at 10 a.m. CT at the Park Recreational Hall. For more information call Shawn Hughes 931-823-6347.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Garrison Weekend on April 13 & 14
Garrison Weekend is a time when the daily lives of the men, women and children of Fort Loudoun are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at Fort Loudoun. Visitors can view an 18th century infirmary, the soldier's barracks, the commander's quarters, blacksmith shop and a Cherokee encampment. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Frozen Head (plateau) hosts 45th Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage on April 13 & 14
Join Frozen Head State Park Rangers and expert guest leaders to learn about the amazing diversity of wildflowers that fill the forested mountains of Frozen Head State Park. Hikes will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. ET on Saturday and at 2 p.m. ET on Sunday. Additional dates April 20 & 21. Please call for detailed information. For more information please call 423-346-3318 or email michael.e.hodge@tn.gov. For more information about Frozen Head log on to www.tn.gov/environment/parks/FrozenHead/ or www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/frozen.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Carter Mansion Celebration Muster on April 13 & 14
Join us for two days of history, music, and fun at the Carter Mansion, the oldest frame house in Tennessee. Travel back to the 1770s...the American colonies struggle against Britain, and the Patriot frontiersmen gather together to celebrate Independence. See 2 local craftsmen demonstrate traditional skills such as natural dyeing and colonial cooking. Sat., April 13 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ET, Sun., April 14 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Montgomery Bell (middle) hosts Feather, Fur and Scale Hike on April 14
Did you know Montgomery Bell State Park is also a State Natural Area? In honor of Tennessee State Natural Areas Week guests will have a chance to meet some of the parks wild residents on this Feather, Fur and Scale Hike. Meet park staff at 9 a.m. CT at

the park office. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Refreshments will be served at the end of the hike. For more information call 615-797-9052.

Frozen Head (plateau) hosts DeBord Falls Wildflower Hike on April 14
Celebrate Tennessee State Natural Areas Week with a wildflower hike to scenic DeBord Falls. This 1-mile round trip hike is an easy but rocky walk along what was historically an old railroad of the 1920s. We will discuss the parks history and wildflower identification along the way. We will also enjoy beautiful DeBord Falls, one of the natural areas' finest attractions. For more information email Michael.e.hodge@tn.gov or call 423-346-3318.

BRAT Spring Ride (Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee) on April 19-20
Welcome to the annual Spring Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee The 2013 Spring Ride will show you the best of what the Western Tennessee River has to offer, from the prime vantage point of a bike seat. With our trusty mix of family-friendly and more challenging routes, you can experience as much of this magical river valley as you like. For complete details visit www.thebrat.org.

Warriors' Path (east) hosts Spring Nature Festival on April 19-21
Experience the delights of spring nature discovery in the great Tennessee outdoors. Participate in seminars taught by professionals, and hikes guided by trained naturalists. Topics include: spring wildflowers, tracking, astronomy, stream life, local geology, spring trees, and more! Free but pre-registration is required. For more information call 423-239-6786 or 423-239-8531 or email marty.silver@tn.gov.

Bicentennial Capitol Mall (middle) hosts VisionWalk on April 20
Vision Walk raises money in support of the mission of Foundation fighting Blindness to fund critical retinal degenerative disease research. Come to walk or run to help raise awareness for this worthwhile event. For more info about the park call 615-741-5280.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Landscape Seminar & Plant Auction on April 20
An exciting array of unusual ornamental & native perennials, trees and shrubs will be auctioned during this event. A great opportunity to add new species to your landscape! Sponsored by The UT Extension Service, E.TN Nursery Assoc. and the Eliz/Carter Co. Chamber of Commerce. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fort Pillow (west) hosts annual Civil War Re-enactment Weekend on April 20 & 21
Discover what life was like for soldiers during the Civil War through living history programs and tours of Union and Confederate soldier encampments. The living history programs will take place Saturday and Sunday, while the Battle will take place on Sat., April 20. Food vendors will be present both days. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Frozen Head (plateau) hosts 45th Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage on April 20 & 21
Join Frozen Head State Park Rangers and expert guest leaders to learn about the amazing diversity of wildflowers that fill the forested mountains of Frozen Head State Park. Hikes will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. ET on Saturday and at 2 p.m. ET on Sunday. Additional dates April 20 & 21. Please call for detailed information. For more information please call 423-346-3318 or email michael.e.hodge@tn.gov. For more information about Frozen Head log on to www.tn.gov/environment/parks/FrozenHead/ or www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/frozen.

Bledsoe Creek (middle) hosts Earth Day Interpretive Hike on April 21
Meet up with Susan Alsup for a cool hike around the Shoreline and Highridge trail. Learn about the geology, ecology and history of Bledsoe Creek State Park in the spring. Dress appropriately for weather and wear hiking shoes. Friends of Bledsoe Creek State Park will be providing healthy snacks. We will meet at Shelter # 1 at 2 p.m. CT. For more information contact Sharon 615-347-3639.

David Crockett (middle) hosts Earth Day by Moonlight on April 21
Join us for a unique Tennessee State Park experience as we celebrate Earth Day with a Moonlight Hike. Meet up at the park restaurant for a moderate hike along a segment of the Trail of Tears. The halfway point will find hikers on the serene shore of Lake Lindsey, bathed in an almost full moon. The hike is approximately 3-miles and every hiker will need a flashlight or headlamp. For more information email Rachel.Bridges@tn.gov or call 931-762-9408.

Montgomery Bell (middle) hosts Earth Day Celebration on April 21
Join us for a day of canoeing, hikes, a cookout and fun! We will meet at the park office at 9 a.m. CT. Children must be 10 years old to participate and have an adult with them at all times. Canoes and food are limited, but feel free to bring your own. For more information and to RSVP call 615-797-9052.

Cumberland Mountain (plateau) hosts Volunteer Day on April 21
Help us clear the Byrd Creek Trail Run route for the upcoming 15K run May 4. Volunteers are needed to help re-blaze the trail, trim back limbs and briars, and move other obstructions on the trail (down trees and branches). We will cover certain sections of this trail each day. Volunteers will meet the park ranger at the park office at 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and a lunch. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing. Looking forward to working with all the volunteers!! For more information call Ranger Monica Johnson at 931-484-6138 or email monica.johnson@tn.gov.

Bicentennial Capitol Mall (middle) hosts Country Music Marathon on April 27
The best place to view both the full and half marathon is at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, located at 600 James Robertson Parkway in Nashville. The best place to park is to come in on Jefferson Street to 5th Ave. and park in the state employee parking lots. Bring a picnic lunch or eat at one of the many shops at Farmers Market.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Community Plant Exchange on April 27
The front parking lot will be bustling this morning! Bring cuttings and potted outdoor and indoor plants, to exchange for species you don't have - a fun way to meet other gardeners and increase your collection. 9-10 a.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

MAY

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Spring Naturalist's Rally on May 3, 4,
Dinner, hikes, bird watching, view the night sky. Led by Friends of Roan Mountain. For more information call 423-543-5805.

Cedars of Lebanon (middle) hosts Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival on May 3 & 4
Come and celebrate the Annual 37-year Festival of the Cedar Glade Wildflowers as we bring together the finest group of botanists, ecologists, and naturalists to present the

beauty and uniqueness of the Cedar Glades through lectures, workshops, hikes, fieldtrips, and exhibits. Co- sponsored with the Center for Cedar Glade Studies Program at Middle Tennessee State University. Free to the public! For more information call 615-443-2769.

Old Stone Fort (middle) hosts Knap-In and Archaeoskills on May 3 - 5

A celebration of the ancient arts and archaeoskills, the weekend's main activities and special programming begin at 8 a.m. CT on Saturday and will run until approximately 4:30 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public. Flint knappers of all skill levels will begin arriving at the park on Friday and will set up on the roof deck of the museum to exchange ideas and materials and demonstrate their craft to the public. There will be atlatl competitions on Saturday and Sunday, with opportunities for everyone to try this ancient skill. Other demonstrations include Native American pottery construction, shell carving, basketry, fire making, native plant use, cordage production and many other primitive skills. There also will be special presentations throughout Saturday on topics such as Southeastern archaeology and prehistory. The Old Stone Fort is a 2000-year-old Native American ceremonial site, which consists of nearly 4,000 feet of low, wall-like mounds enclosing nearly 50 acres. For more information contact the park office at 931-723-5073 or email stephanie.hayes@tn.gov.

Bicentennial Capitol Mall (middle) hosts Whole Kid Festival on May 4

This day is for children's mental health awareness. Come learn about the issues and have some fun playing games and making crafts with the volunteers with the Children's Mental Health Coalition and Tennessee Voices for Children. For more information about the park call 615-741-5280.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Spinning and Fiber Meet on May 4

Join area fiber artists and producers for a day of spinning, felting, workshops, vendors, fiber sources, competitions and so much more! 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Garrison Weekend on May 4 & 5

Garrison Weekend is a time when the daily lives of the men, women and children of Fort Loudoun are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at Fort Loudoun. Visitors can view an 18th century infirmary, the soldier's barracks, the commander's quarters, blacksmith shop and a Cherokee encampment. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Johnsonville (west) hosts Johnsonville Federal Garrison Artillery Weekend on May 4 & 5

The Garrison will be training and firing a Civil War cannon. The event is open to the public and will be on Saturday from 10 to 5 and Sunday from 9 to 2 p.m. Look on the park's website for more details. For more information call 931-535-2789.

Bicentennial Capitol Mall (middle) hosts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk on May 5

Great Strides is the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's largest and most successful national fundraising event. For more information about the park call 615-741-5280.

Opportunity Knocks for Restoring Native Tennessee Landscapes on the Plateau: The Old Bowater Pine Plantations - Tues., May 7, 6:00 p.m. ET

Location: Burks Methodist Church, 6433 Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN.

Enjoy a presentation with the Soddy Daisy Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association on opportunities for recreation and native plant community restoration on the Plateau in

the old pine plantations formerly owned by Bowater, but now in state ownership. Learn more about how much of this property the state owns, where it is, what condition it's in and what the current options are for the managing state agencies. For more information contact Lisa Huff, Tennessee Natural Areas Program, Lisa.Huff@tn.gov.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Spring Star Party on May 10 & 11
Programs are entry level to professional level. Professional and amateur astronomers will be giving presentations. Dark sky field viewing will be Friday and Saturday night with alternate "bad weather" programs. There will be no registration fee. Your only cost for the event will be lodging and food. For more information, contact Allen Ball at mistal@bellsouth.net or Lloyd Watkins at watkinslk@comcast.net, or visit [www.CumberlandAstronomical Society.org](http://www.CumberlandAstronomicalSociety.org). Please make reservations with Fall Creek Falls Inn at 1-800-250-8610 and ask about the special package deal.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Bird Walk with the Herndon TOS Chapter on May 11
Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Jr. Trout Tournament on May 11
Children ages 6 to 15 get a chance to catch the "Big One" and win prizes. Tagged fish will be stocked for the event. Registration at the Park Amphitheater fishing starts at 9 a.m. Sponsored by Elizabethton Elks Lodge #1847 and Roan Mountain State Park. 423-543-1360

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Colonial Kids at Fort Watauga on May 17
Families, schools, and home school groups are invited to attend this all-day event for kids ages 8-12. Join the Washington County Militia for a taste of 18th century life: black powder muskets, old-time games, marching drills, tomahawk throwing, Dutch-oven cooking, and a host of other colonial activities. Admission is free and groups are welcome, but space is limited. Reservations are required! For more information call 423-543-5808.

Bicentennial Capitol Mall (middle) hosts Walk Me Home on May 18
Join us for the 6th annual Walk Me Home. This event raises awareness and helps promote Foster Care for needed children. For more information about the park call 615-741-5280.

Flat Rock Cedar Glade SNA (middle) hosts Endangered Species Hike on May 18
On Endangered Species Day (May 17), America celebrates our nation's commitment to protecting wildlife and plants on the brink of extinction. The United States has one of the most effective programs in the world for protecting endangered species. On this 2.5-mile hike, we will explore a globally rare ecosystem that supports an abundance of rare species, including two federally endangered species, while hiking through a unique landscape of limestone outcropping, grassland (prairies) and forest. The hike will take approximately 3 hours and start at 10 a.m. CT. Bring water, a snack, wear sturdy walking gear, and dress for the weather. Leader: Brian Bowen, Tennessee Natural Areas Program. Reservations required: Call 615-532-0436 or email Brian.Bowen@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/>. For nearby camping and accommodations, please go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/Cedars/>.

Chickamauga Creek Gorge SNA (plateau) hosts Endangered Species Day on May 18 Meet at 10 a.m. ET. We will hike the 1.5 mile Hogskin Trail Loop through a portion of North Chickamauga Creek Gorge to view the threatened large-flowered skullcap and learn about Tennessee's efforts to protect and recover endangered species. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress appropriately, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. As with any moderate hiking trip, please do not attempt this hike unless you are in good condition and able to negotiate rocky trail situations. Parking is available at the North Chickamauga trailhead on Montlake Road in Soddy Daisy. Take Highway US-27 to Soddy-Daisy, exit at Thrasher Pike and turn west, go about one mile to Dayton Pike, turn right, and proceed a mile to Montlake Road. Turn left on Montlake Road and proceed 1.5 miles to the entrance on left. This trip will be limited to 30 guests. Reservations are required. RSVP to David Lincicome by May 16 at 615-532-0439 or David.Lincicome@tn.gov. Leaders: David Lincicome and Andrea Bishop, Division of Natural Areas; Geoff Call, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Andrew Wright, Cumberland Trail State Park. Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Endangered Species Coalition, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy, Tennessee State Parks. For more information visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts 19th Annual Siege at Fort Watauga on May 18 & 19 Step back to a vibrant and dangerous time...America declares Independence in the summer of 1776, and people beyond the mountains build forts, stock powder, and sharpen hatchets for the oncoming war. Walk among local legends—the vivacious Bonnie Kate, mysterious Old Abram, dignified Col. Carter, and daring John Sevier—for a glimpse of life on this “dark and bloody ground.” Colonial, native, and British re-enactors share their past through talks, mini-dramas, and demonstrations of 18th century life. Battle re-enactments both days. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET. Contact the park for detailed schedule. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Edgar Evins (middle) hosts Western Wallflower Week Boat Tour on May 20-26 Join Park Rangers & the Seasonal Naturalist for daily boat tours to view a magnificent display of this infrequent Tennessee wildflower, and other unique species endemic to the limestone bluffs on Center Hill Reservoir. Be sure to arrive prepared for sun & rain exposure, and to bring your binoculars. Bottled water and a bagged lunch are also recommended. Meet at the Courtesy Dock. Boat will leave promptly at 10:00 AM. Please arrive 15 minutes prior. Duration: approximately 3 hrs. Limit 12 people per tour. Sorry, no children under 3 years of age. To sign up call 931-858-2114 or 931-982-3918, or email Ranger Mark at Mark.Taylor@tn.gov.

Fort Pillow (west) hosts Memorial Day Celebration on May 25-27 Join Fort Pillow as we kick off our summer programming season with 3 full days of programs. There will be outdoor activities and programs for all ages. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Memorial Day Weekend on May 28 Come out and enjoy our summer kick-off season down at our Campground Pavilion. There will be kid's activities throughout the weekend by our Seasonal Interpretive Ranger beginning on Thursday. For more information contact: Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov.

JUNE

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Diamond Dash Trail Run on June 1

Join us at the Conference Center for a 5K trail run. Registration at 8:30 a.m. Race starts at 9 a.m. Prizes will be awarded. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Native American Festival on June 1 & 2

A two-day celebration of our Native American heritage! Award-winning dancers, storytellers, artists, and scholars gather at the circle to share knowledge and demonstrate their skills. Come and discover Native American arts, music, and legends, with an emphasis on the Cherokee culture. Admissions Charge. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts Butterfly Garden Work Project on June 1 & 2

Join us for our National Trails Day project - Restoring our Native Plant Butterfly Garden! Help us create a homey habitat for these flying wonders while also beautifying the park. A new butterfly garden will be planted at the Mill overlook and at Area 2. We need a helping hand, groups and families welcome. Help a little while or stay the whole time. Please bring gardening gloves. We will begin at 10 a.m. CT. For more information contact Dava Lundquist 931-686-2471 ext. 4.

National Trails Day June 2 Events TBA

Fort Pillow (west) hosts National Trails Day Hike on June 2

Join Park staff at 9 a.m. for a 5-mile hike along the Yellow Trail. We will travel along the 1861 Earth Works and visit the Restored Fortifications. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Astronomy Weekends on June 7 & 8

Set your sight to the stars during Astronomy Weekend! Join us for discussions regarding constellations, lunar lore, and our brightest star, the Sun. Telescope viewing will also be offered, weather permitting. Additional dates July 12/13 and Aug. 9/10. For more information, email Lloyd Watkins at watkinslk@comcast.net, or visit www.CumberlandAstronomicalSociety.org.

Fort Pillow (west) hosts Youth Fishing Rodeo on June 8

Come and go fishing with the staff at Fort Pillow during Tennessee's free fishing day. All kids 10 and under can participate and win prizes. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. CT. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Bledsoe Creek (middle) hosts Free Fishing Day on June 8

Come join us at the public boat launch area for a morning of free fishing. Bring your poles and special bait (some bait is available). Activities include tips from pro anglers, boater safety, crime prevention by the Gallatin PD, and the TWRA wildlife trailer will be available for viewing. For more information call Sharon Armistead at 615-347-3639.

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Appalachian Heritage Fair on June 8 & 9

Join park staff and our Pioneer Friends Group for this 2-day event celebrating the traditional arts, crafts and music of our region. This event showcases local artisans and their handmade, traditional Appalachian style crafts, traditional flowers, herbs and local organic farmers. Local food vendors will be on hand. For more information or to be

considered as a craft or food vendor please contact: Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov. Sat. June 9, 10-5, Sun June 10, 10-4:30 ET. For more information call 423-257-2167.

Burgess Falls (plateau) hosts 9th annual Butterfly Garden Celebration on June 15
This popular event provides fun for the whole family! Join park staff, master gardeners, and the Friends of Burgess Falls for a fun filled day of staff led educational programs, hikes, butterfly identification, creek studies, landscaping with native plants and more! For more information call 931-432-5312.

Warriors' Path (east) hosts Dragonfly Day on June 15
Jewelwings, Sprites and Skimmers! Discover the world of these and other local dragonflies and damselflies. Learn to observe, photograph and identify native dragonflies and damselflies. Free but pre-registration is required. For more information call 423-239-6786 or 423-239-8531 or email marty.silver@tn.gov.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Rhododendron Festival on June 15 & 16
For more than 60 years, the Catawaba Rhododendrons have been delighting visitors with their breath-taking beauty. Celebrate the blooming of the Catawba Rhododendron Gardens atop Roan Mountain. The festival features crafters, folkway demonstrators, musicians and of course food! Held at the amphitheater starting at 10 a.m. ET. Sponsored by the Roan Mountain Citizens Club. For more information visit: www.roanmountain.com

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Pioneer Kids Camp on June 22
Join park staff and our Pioneer Friends Group for a day of hands on demonstrations of Pioneer skills and crafts for all the kids. Pioneer Kids Camp helps kids understand and experience their Appalachian frontier heritage of the early 1800's. Kids will get hands on experience with archery, traditional crafts of the time period, tomahawk throwing, fire starting and more. Local artisans and interpreters will be on hand to instruct. This event begins at 10 a.m. ET. For more information contact Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov or call 423-257-2167.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Summer Art Show on June 23-July 28
Meet regional artists and view their art in a timeless setting - Sycamore Shoals! Meet-the-Artist Awards Reception on Sun., June 23 1:30 - 4:00 pm ET. This multi-media exhibit is two art shows in one: "11th annual Judged show" and the "19th annual Watauga Valley Art League Member show". Public is invited to the June 23 Reception and to enjoy the art exhibit all month. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Independence Day Celebration on June 29
Cool off with some summer fun at our annual Independence Day Celebration! Traditional old time games, including a checkers tournament, watermelon eating contest, bicycle parade, scavenger hunt, and more. 8-12 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Independence Celebration & Muster on June 29 & 30
Experience the 4th of July, 18th century-style! What did colonists think about a new nation? Be a guest in Fort Watauga as news of Independence arrives to the colonial frontier. Walk among historical characters and hear their varied reactions to the Declaration, from fear of war to the hope of a brighter future. Activities begin at 10 a.m.

both days. The Celebration will take place on Saturday; the muster will continue until Sunday at 3 pm. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

JULY

Fort Pillow (west) hosts Independence Day Celebration on July 4
Join Fort Pillow as we celebrate our country's independence with a day filled with outdoor programs and activities. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts Fourth of July Celebration on July 4-6
This weekend of summer fun and celebration includes sand castle contests, tie dye, bicycle parade and much more! For more information please contact the park office at 931-686-2471

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Independence Day Celebration on July 6
This event is held for all our campers staying here at Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park. A "Best Decorated Camper" contest will also be held with the chance of winning 3 FREE nights of camping at our park. A "Best Decorated Bicycle" will also be given after our bicycle parade. For more information contact: Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Jr. Ranger Camp on July 8-12
Children ages 8-12 learn outdoor skills from experienced Ranger staff. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Liberty: The Saga of Sycamore Shoals July 11-13
Tennessee's official outdoor drama, presented by local performers against the backdrop of Fort Watauga. See the Revolution as told by the Overmountain Men: colonists who defied British law and settled on Cherokee lands. These settlers formed an independent government, made treaties with the Cherokee, defended their homes, and fought a British army at the epic battle of King's Mountain. Bleacher seating is available in the Amphitheater. Thursday – Saturday at 7:30 p.m. ET. Additional dates: July 18-20, and 25-27. Sponsored by Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. Admissions Charge. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Colditz Cove SNA (plateau) hosts annual Crawdad Hootenanny on July 20
Don your boots and join intrepid biologist Dave Withers for an aquatic excursion to a natural area best known for its scenic waterfall. Colditz Cove SNA is home to some of our most clever crayfish- the mudbugs, or burrowers. Bring boots you don't mind getting wet and gloves you don't mind getting dirty. If the raccoons don't beat us to it, we will learn how to coax crayfish out of sand and cobble burrows ("noodling") beneath sandstone rock house drip lines and along the margins of Big Branch Creek. We will meet at the Colditz Cove SNA parking lot at 10 a.m. central time and hike to the margins of Northrup Falls while looking for crayfish burrows and their occupants. This trip will be limited to fifteen guests. Don't forget to contact David to make your reservation and leave a phone number or E-mail to contact you in case we have to cancel the hootenanny on account of inclement weather. Reservations are required. RSVP to David Withers by July 16 at 615-532-0441 or david.withers@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Xtreme Roan Adventures Youth Rally on July 27
Kids enjoy nature talks, hikes, live animals and lunch. 8-4:30 p.m. For more information call 423-773-9234

Warriors' Path (east) hosts Folklife Festival on July 27 (Tentative)
Come celebrate the folk traditions of East TN. Enjoy traditional life skills and crafts demonstrations, traditional games and contests, old-timey music, and more. And don't miss the tales around the campfire! Free. 11 a.m. -10 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-239-6786 or 423-239-8531 or email marty.silver@tn.gov.

AUGUST

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Civil War Camp at the Carter Mansion
Dates and times to be announced.
Step back to the 1860s when East Tennessee was a hotbed of activity during the War Between the States! Visit the camp and witness Life as it was 150 years ago.
Experience the roar of the cannon, the rattle of muskets, the smell of the cook's fire, & the melodies of camp! For more information call 423-543-5808.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts "Newell Hendershot Watermedia Exhibition" Aug. 1-28
The 8th bi-annual Watermedia Exhibit
Thursday, August 1 - August 28 1:30 pm - 4:00pm
Closing Reception: Sunday August 25th 1:30 pm - 4:00pm
Participating artists belong to at least one of the following Tennessee art organizations: Bristol Art Guild, Kingsport Art Guild, Tennessee Watercolor Society, or Watauga Valley Art League. A Watermedia Workshop will be scheduled August 23, 24 and end on Sunday, August 25th with a 1:30 demonstration by the workshop artist (to be announced) followed by a closing reception. Public invited to enjoy the exhibit and the Sunday, August 25th events. For more information call 423-543-5808.

T.O. Fuller (west) hosts Fullerfest on Aug. 3
Enjoy a day filled with family-friendly interpretive programs, a car show, arts and crafts, music (live DJ) and food. Call our park office for more details 901-543-7581.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts 11th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count on Aug. 4
Meet naturalist Don Holt at Sycamore Shoals for this day-long winged adventure across town. Come for all or part of the day. 9 a.m. & 1 p.m. ET. Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. (Rain date to be announced). For more information call 423-543-5808.

Duck River SNA (middle) hosts annual Canoe Float on Aug. 10
Come join us as we enjoy the cool waters of the Duck River on a warm summer day. We will be on a very flat and easy stretch of river from Leftwich Bridge to the TWRA take out at Howard Bridge. This stretch of the river has a gentle current, no rapids, and will take about 4 hours to float. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners to canoe.
Participants are welcome to bring their own canoe or kayak, but will have to provide their own transportation if they do. Transportation from put-in to take-out can be arranged.
Canoes can be rented at a special discount of \$12.50 per person or \$25 per canoe through a local canoe vendor. Our put-in point is about a 45-minute drive south of Nashville on I-65. Bring lunch and water and perhaps a change of clothes. Meet at the

Target parking area at Old Hickory Blvd. and I-65 in Brentwood at 9 a.m. CT. We will carpool and caravan from there. Reservations are required. RSVP by August 9 to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431 or Forrest.Evans@tn.gov. For more information about this as well as any other State Scenic River, visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Garrison Weekend on Aug. 10 & 11

Garrison Weekend is a time when the daily lives of the men, women and children of Fort Loudoun are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at Fort Loudoun. Visitors can view an 18th century infirmary, the soldier's barracks, the commander's quarters, blacksmith shop and a Cherokee encampment. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Big Ridge (east) hosts Bluegrass 75th Anniversary Celebration on Aug. 16

We are celebrating 31 years of Bluegrass at Big Ridge! Please join us! Music starts at 7 p.m. ET on Friday. Other event schedules will be updated as planning progresses. For more information call 865-992-5523.

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Crockett Days on Aug. 16-18

Join park staff, and local historical interpreters for a 3-day event celebrating the birth of David Crockett, pioneer, political leader, and one of Tennessee and Greene County's most famous sons. Explore living history demonstrations depicting life on the frontier, activities, workshops, kid's games, crafts, period food and music. All activities will highlight early Pioneer life in Tennessee. Beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday; and 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET on Sunday. There is no fee for this event but donations to the Pioneer Friends Group are greatly appreciated. For more information call 423-257-2167.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts FCF Triathlon on Aug. 18

Push your limits in a 1.5km swim, followed by a 40km bike ride, and a 10km run. For more information on this event contact Kevin Mahan by email at kevin@endurancesportsmanagement.com or call 865-988-3906. Be sure to ask what other races will be offered throughout the year!

Dry Branch SNA (middle) hosts Late Summer Hike on Aug. 24

Come take a stroll along picturesque Dry Branch in western Lewis County. See late summer wildflowers including the endangered Tennessee yellow-eyed grass. This natural area does not have developed public access so this is a limited guided hike. We will hike approximately 2.5 miles out-and-back along Dry Branch. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress appropriately, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. As with any moderate hiking trip, please do not attempt this hike unless you are in good condition and able to negotiate wet rocky trail situations and shallow creek crossings. This trip will be limited to 25 guests. We will meet at 9 a.m. CT at the intersection of Hwy 412 and Brush Creek Road 5.6 miles west of Hohenwald, TN at the Mt. Zion United Pentecostal Church (2116 Linden Hwy, Hohenwald, TN 38462) and carpool out to the hike location. Reservations are required. RSVP to David Lincicome by Aug. 22, 2013 at 615-532-0439 or David.Lincicome@tn.gov. Additional trip leaders are Andrea Bishop and Allan Trently. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps visit www.tn.gov/environment/na.

May Prairie SNA (middle) hosts Walk and Talk on Aug. 24, 10 a.m. CT

This event combines an easy hike with discussion about prairie management while visiting one of the premier native grassland in the Southeast. While enjoying a visit to the prairie, discussion will focus on the history and on-going restoration of this significant National Natural Landmark. The hike will take approximately 3 hours. Bring water, a snack, wear sturdy walking gear, and dress for the weather. We will meet at 10 a.m. CT at the May Prairie State Natural Area Parking Area, located on Asbury Rd. Turn off U.S. 41 on Asbury go about a half-mile, parking is on the right or meet at the Target parking lot off of I – 24 on Bell Rd at 8:45 to car pool. Reservations are required. To RSVP call 615-532-0436 or email Brian.Bowen@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas.

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts 13th annual Campers Night Light Content on August 31 Decorate your campsite with a creative selection of lights. 1st place prize, for most original display, is one week of free Camping at Standing Stone State Park. 2nd place prize is two days/nights of free Camping at Standing Stone State Park. Judging will begin at dark. Camping Fee is required to participate! For more information call 931-823-6347.

SEPTEMBER

Fort Pillow (west) hosts Labor Day Celebration on Sept. 2

(WEST) Come celebrate Labor Day weekend with 3 full days of outdoor activities and programs for all ages. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts 35th annual Mountaineer Folk Festival on Sept. 6-8

This weekend's jam-packed schedule includes handmade crafts, 2 stages of traditional mountain music, demonstrations of pioneer skills, country cooking, and much more. Don't miss this event! For more information call 423-881-5298.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts 13th annual Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival on Sept. 6-8
Friday Night Torchlight Ceremony 6:30 pm

Saturday – Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday Night Concert 6:30 pm

Celebrate Appalachia's Celtic heritage! Opening with a torchlight ceremony Friday night, Clans and Family Societies will be on hand to help with family history; dance, music, food, vendors, demonstrations, reenactments of 18th & 19th Century heritage, lectures, and a special musical concert on Saturday evening. Admissions Charge. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Fall Naturalist's Rally on Sept. 6-8

Dinner, hikes, bird watching, led by Friends of Roan Mountain. For more information call 423-543-7576

Ghost River SNA (west) hosts Guided Canoe Trip on Sept. 7

The trip will focus on the history, diversity and beauty of the natural area. The float is about 9 miles and has some fast sections so some paddling experience is recommended. Participants should bring lunch and water to drink. Sunscreen, bug spray and carpooling are recommended. The canoe trip will last approximately 6-7 hours. Participants are to meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow at 9.30 a.m. where most vehicles will be left. There will be a shuttle to take people to the launch point at Yager Rd in La Grange where the paddling trip should commence at 10 a.m. CT.

Reservations are required: Reservations may be made by calling 731-253-9652. More detailed information will be provided upon reservations. For more information please email David.Haggard@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps view www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts 18th Century Trade Faire on Sept. 7 & 8

The Fort Loudoun State Historic Park and the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum are partnering for the Great Island Festival, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. ET each day. The Great Island Festival is a series of concurrent events, designed to take visitors back in time to an 18th century Trade Faire and a Cherokee encampment. The 18th century Trade Faire at Fort Loudoun features encampments of soldiers, settlers and American Indians. There will be demonstrations throughout the day in artillery and musketry, along with several battle and skirmish re-enactments. Merchants and artisans will be on hand to peddle food and wares reminiscent of the time. Admission is \$5 for adults aged 12 and up; children 11 and under will be admitted free of charge. For more information please call 423-884-6217.

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts Rolley Hole Marbles Tournament on Sept. 14

The Rolley Hole Marbles Tournament in Overton county is the world's most challenging marble tournament where only the finest players can hope to compete. This traditional marbles contest draws some of the country's best players to a tournament where players match wit and skills with special flint spheres on a smooth dirt surface. Festival includes kids' games, marble making, swap meet, tournament play, demonstrations, music and food. (Registration is required for the Rolley Hole Tournament.) This one of a kind family experience has been featured by ESPN, *Sports Illustrated*, CBS, CNN, Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, and Charles Schulz's *Peanuts*. For more information call 931-823-6347.

BRAT (TN State Parks Bicycle Ride Across TN) on Sept. 14-21

Welcome to the 24rd annual Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT 2013). Planning is in progress for this the fall BRAT. Check back for more information. Sign up for our newsletter at: <http://thebrat.org/sign-up/>

Nathan Bedford Forrest (west) hosts Eva Beach Music Festival/Cruise In on Sept. 21

This family friendly event has something for everyone! Enjoy the craft sale and a variety of craft demonstrations including basket weaving and Tomahawk throwing, etc. Local classic cars will be cruising throughout the day. Jumpers for the kids and games for all ages. Food of all varieties. Bands throughout the day playing bluegrass, gospel, rock and southern rock music. Activities begin at 11 a.m. CT and continue through 7 p.m. CT. For more information call 731-584-6356.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration on Sept. 21 & 22

Join us for an encampment by the Overmountain militia before the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. Live some of the most crucial days of the American Revolution! Sat., Sept. 21 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET, Sun., Sept. 22 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Overmountain Victory Trail March on Sept. 25

Members of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association have recreated the historic march to King's Mountain since 1975. On September 25, marchers will cross the

Watauga River at Sycamore Shoals, just as the Overmountain militia crossed 233 years ago. 2 p.m. (approximate time). For more information call 423-543-5808.

Old Stone Fort (middle) hosts Knap-In and Archaeoskills on Sept. 27-29

A celebration of the ancient arts and archaeoskills, the weekend's main activities and special programming begin at 8 a.m. CT on Saturday and will run until approximately 4:30 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public. Flint knappers of all skill levels will begin arriving at the park on Friday and will set up on the roof deck of the museum to exchange ideas and materials and demonstrate their craft to the public. There will be atlatl competitions on Saturday and Sunday, with opportunities for everyone to try this ancient skill. Other demonstrations include Native American pottery construction, shell carving, basketry, fire making, native plant use, cordage production and many other primitive skills. There also will be special presentations throughout Saturday on topics such as Southeastern archaeology and prehistory. The Old Stone Fort is a 2000-year-old Native American ceremonial site, which consists of nearly 4,000 feet of low, wall-like mounds enclosing nearly 50 acres. For more information contact the park office at 931-723-5073 or email stephanie.hayes@tn.gov.

National Public Lands Day Sept. 28

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts 2nd annual Storytelling Festival on September 28

Join in the fun at the 2nd Annual Storytelling Festival at Standing Stone from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CT. Hear storytellers weave their magic of the spoken word through their storytelling technique. Hear one or all stories, bring a picnic or eat lunch by purchasing food at our food booths. Meet at Shelter# 4. Admission to this family-friendly event is free. Event is sponsored by members of Alpha Upsilon Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Int. For more information contact sponsoring members, Sarah Hogue at 931-823-1849 or Barbra Seeley at 931-265-0196.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts 38th Lion's Club Fall Festival & Craft Fair on Sept 28 & 29
This event highlights crafts, jewelry, & antiques. Enjoy the music, food, and beauty of the park in our newly renovated beach bathhouse. Profits go to vision & hearing enrichment for needy families. For more information call 931-686-2769 or 931-686-2828.

OCTOBER

Big Ridge (east) hosts Ghost House Hikes in Oct.

(EAST) Join Park Rangers on Friday and Saturday nights for a spine-tingling night hike! 1.2 miles of spooky stories from Big Ridge's past. Bring your own flashlight. The hike is free, but reservations are required. Limit 30 people. No children under 6 years old please. Contact the park office at 865-992-5523.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts 19th annual Quilt Show on Oct. 3-5

This four-day exhibition, sponsored by the Sycamore Shoals Stitchers, features a show and demonstrations by local quilters held in the park museum. Bed quilts, wall hangings, holiday and baby quilts, miniatures and antique quilts will be on display. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Norris Dam hosts Pickin' in the Park on Oct 4

Join us as we listen to some old time bluegrass bands at the park's outdoor amphitheater. Free. Food and drink available. For more information contact Ranger Mike Scott at the Norris Dam State Park office at 865-426-7461.

Warriors' Path (east) hosts Environmental Education Workshop on Oct. 5

Learn to use nearby, familiar environments as "natural classrooms" for your children and students. Try teaching techniques that bring conservation to life. Especially for teachers and youth leaders. Free, but pre-registration is required. Workshop will run from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. ET. For more information contact Marty Silver at 423-239-8531 or marty.silver@tn.gov.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts Rock Island 5 Miler on Oct. 5

Rock Island State Park will be hosting the kick off race this year for the annual Tennessee State Parks Running Tour. This is the longest state parks running event in the U.S. The Rock Island race will include an on road & off road section with challenging elevation changes! Advance registration is \$19 with a shirt & \$6 without a shirt. Race day registration with no shirt is \$13. You can access online registration at Racesonline.com. Call 931-743-2461 for more information or contact the park office at 931-686-2471.

Cedars of Lebanon (middle) hosts W.P.A. Day on Oct. 5

Join us for a series of historical and cultural programs, demonstrations, and living history from the era during the establishment of Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Free to the public! For more information call 615-443-2769.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Herndon TOS Chapter Bird Walks on Oct 5

Join us at 8 a.m. ET to meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Additional dates Oct. 12, 19 and 26. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Chili Cook-off on Oct. 5

Cook up a pot or come sample. Register at Park Headquarters or Campground. Prizes will be awarded. 8-12 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Fort Watauga Knap-In on Oct. 5 & 6

Knapping—with a "K"—has nothing to do with sleep! Knapping is the art of making stone tools, and the Knap-In at Fort Watauga is our celebration of Tennessee Archaeology Week. Watch primitive skills craftsmen make arrowheads, spear points, and other survival tools. There will be demonstrations of primitive tools such as the bow, arrow, and atlatl throughout the day. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Garrison Weekend on Oct. 5 & 6

Garrison Weekend is a time when the daily lives of the men, women and children of Fort Loudoun are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at Fort Loudoun. Visitors can view an 18th century infirmary, the soldier's barracks, the commander's quarters, blacksmith shop and a Cherokee encampment. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Edgar Evins (middle) hosts 7th annual History Hayride on Oct. 12

Bring your blanket and enjoy a family oriented ride back into time as the Friends of Edgar Evins and park staff bring history alive. There will be approximately 10 stops along the hayride where costumed re-enactors reveal the history of the area and its people. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are required and the cost is \$10 per person. We begin accepting reservations on the 1st of September each year. The hayrides fill up quickly so mark your calendars now. For more information and to RSVP call 931-858-2114 or 800-250-8619.

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Mountain Melodies on Oct. 12

Join Park Staff and our Pioneer Friends Group in Celebrating 75 years in State Parks with a day of Traditional Mountain Music down by the Nolichucky River. Celebrate the rich heritage of traditional mountain music in our region. Local groups will showcase their talents and storytelling abilities for the community. This event will be held at Shelter #3 down along the Nolichucky River in front of the Crockett Cabin beginning at 11:00 am. For more information please contact: Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov
For more information call 423-257-2167.

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts 16th annual Car Show on Oct. 12

Come and enjoy antique cars/trucks and hot rods. The event is a fun filled day of music and food. Some 300 vehicles will be showed and judged. Show your own or just come and observe. All day event, starts at 8 a.m. CT. For more information call 931-823-6347.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Autumn Harvest on Oct. 12

Celebrate autumn at the farmstead with crafts, food, and entertainment. 12-4 p.m.

Sycamore Shoals hosts Herndon TOS Chapter Bird Walks on Oct 12

Join us at 8 a.m. ET to meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Additional dates Oct. 26. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Norris Dam (east) hosts Fall Color Cruises on Oct. 14 -27

Each year nature displays a spectacular array of fall colors. Join us as we venture along the shores of Norris Lake via pontoon boat ride and view this beautiful display of nature's artistry. Each boat ride will last approximately one hour and will depart from the Norris Dam Marina. Park Rangers will narrate your trip with tree identification and park history. Trips begin daily at 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. ET. Registration is required by contacting the park office after Labor Day to sign up for a trip. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under six years old. If inclement weather prevails at the time of the boat departure, then trip will be cancelled. For more information contact Ranger Mike Scott the park office at 865-426-7461.

Hill Forest SNA (middle) hosts Fall Hike on Oct. 18

Come enjoy an October afternoon hike through the Hill Forest Designated State Natural Area at 2 p.m. CT. This 2.5-mile hike is your opportunity to experience the natural area's biggest and oldest forest trees while enjoying the fall color. The hike will take approximately 3 hours. Bring water, wear sturdy walking gear, and dress for the weather. Leader: Brian Bowen, Tennessee Natural Areas Program. Sponsors: Tennessee Natural Areas Program, Friends of Warner Parks, & Warner Parks. Reservations are required: Call Warner Park Nature Center at 615-352-6299 or email wpnc@nashville.gov.
For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas.

Twin Arches SNA (plateau) hosts Fall Leaf Color Hike on Oct. 19

Late October means beautiful fall leaf color on the Cumberland Plateau! Join us for a 2 mile hike out to the magnificent Twin Arches. From the top of the arches is a grand panoramic view of the colorful surrounding forest. We will also be able to see the endangered Cumberland sandwort and its rock-shelter habitat. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress appropriately, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. As with any moderate hiking trip, please do not attempt this hike unless you are in good condition and able to negotiate rocky trail situations. Parking is available at the Twin Arches trailhead. Reservations are required. RSVP to David Lincicome by Oct.17 at 615-532-0439 or David.Lincicome@tn.gov. Meet at Twin Arches Trailhead, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area at 10 a.m. CT. From Crossville, travel north on U.S. Highway 127 toward Jamestown. From Jamestown, take State Route 154 toward Pickett State Park. Turn right on Fork Ridge Rd. Turn left on to Divide Road for 3.5 miles. Turn right on Twin Arches Road and drive two miles to the trailhead. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/. This trip will be limited to 20 guests.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Herndon TOS Chapter Bird Walks on Oct 19

Join us at 8 a.m. ET to meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Additional dates Oct. 26. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Fall Colors Weekend on October 19 & 20

Join us on bicycle tours, guided hikes, and slideshows focusing on the autumn splendor of Fall Creek Falls State Park. For more information call 423-881-5298.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Scary Stories at the Carter Mansion on Oct 24

Strange things happen around All Hallows Eve, especially at a 200 year-old mansion. Bring the family and join us for tales of woe and terror, the weird and macabre, with a touch of wit thrown in for good measure. Don't be afraid, the graveyard at the Carter Mansion isn't haunted... we think! 7:30 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

T.O. Fuller (west) hosts Fall Festival on Oct. 25

Join us for our 7th annual Fall Festival open to children of all ages. This is a safe community alternative for Trick-or-Treating. Children only need to bring a basket and flashlight to find the hidden glowing eggs filled with candy that are scattered throughout the parks' day use area. Following the egg hunt children are taught to roast weenies and make homemade s'mores on an open campfire. (This event is always held the Friday before Halloween at sunset with the following Friday as a rain date.) For more information call the park office for more information at 901-543-7581.

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Trick or Treat in the Haunted Forest Oct. 26

Come out and bring the kids to trick or treat through our woods. There will be a (EAST) lighted trail to lead the way so you don't get lost. Ghost, ghouls and haints will hand out treats along the trail and give you a little scare. Dress appropriately for cold weather, bring a flashlight and a candy bag. A \$1 per person donation for the park will be taken at the entrance. Event is 7-8 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-257-2167 or email Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov.

Fort Pillow (west) hosts Fall Festival on Oct. 26

Join park staff for an evening of programs and events including a costume contest and pumpkin decorating contest, prizes will be awarded. Activities begin at 4 p.m. CT with a hayride at 5:30 p.m. CT. All children 10 and younger are welcome, but everyone is welcome for the hayride. For more information call 731-738-5581.

Walls of Jericho SNA (plateau) hosts Hike to the Walls on Oct. 26

Catch the fall colors at the Walls of Jericho State Natural Area in Franklin County. This strenuous 8-mile hike descends 900 feet into the "Walls" and continues along the creek to an amazing canyon of sheer rock bluffs, caves, and waterfalls. This is a joint field trip with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will stop to appreciate plants along the way. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch. There are two creek crossings on log bridges and one by rock hopping and wading. A change of footwear might be prudent. This hike is very strenuous and participants should be in good physical condition. The trip will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Meet at the Walls of Jericho's Alabama Trailhead parking lot at 10 a.m. CT, just across the state line on Highway 16 which becomes highway 79 in Alabama. Do not mistake the horse riders trailhead for the hikers trailhead. Reservations are required. RSVP by October 24 to Todd Crabtree, 615-532-1378, or Todd.Crabtree@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/naareas

William B. Clark SNA (west) hosts Nature Walk on Oct. 26

We will walk to the end of the boardwalk and back. The walk will add up to slightly less than a mile. Since this is a short walk we will allow a lot of time for learning about the biology and ecology of the area. We plan to spend two hours at the site, but participants can leave before that time. This event is cosponsored by the Wolf River Conservancy. The walk is considered easy to moderate. Meet in the parking lot for William B. Clark State Natural Area at 10 a.m. CT. Leaders: Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist, TDEC, Division of Natural Areas and Cathy Justis, Director of Education, Wolf River Conservancy. Reservations are required. RSVP before 4 p.m. CT on Thursday, October 24th to Mr. Trently at 731-512-1369 or at allan.trently@tn.gov. Directions: From Memphis, follow Poplar Ave. (Hwy 57) through Collierville to Rossville. In Rossville take Route 194 north for about 0.9-miles to the parking lot which will be on the right. For a map visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/wbclark/wbclark.pdf. For more information on William B. Clark State Natural Area, including descriptions, directions, and maps, visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/wbclark/. For information on Wolf River Conservancy please visit: <http://www.wolfriver.org/>

Nathan Bedford Forrest (west) hosts Monsters Cafe - Last Saturday in October

Join us at 7 p.m. CT at the park office for a half-mile hike of creepy crawly things and ghosts along the trail. The Monster Cafe will be in full swing at Shelter #1 for the kids with all kinds of food, games and treats. For more information call 731-584-6356.

Rock Island (plateau) hosts Halloween on Oct. 26

Halloween Tie Die Shirts, Crafts, Thrilling Games, Costume Contest, Decorated Campsite Contest, Trick or Treating, Hayrides - kid friendly & those who dare can stick around for a ghoulish good time on the scary hayride *remember to dress warmly! For more information please contact the park office at 931-686-2471.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Herndon TOS Chapter Bird Walks on Oct 26
Join us at 8 a.m. ET to meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Wild Foods Day on Oct. 26
Field trips identifying edible wild plants and workshops on preparing wild meats and breads are just part of the activities. The real treat comes in enjoying the wild feast. For more information call 423-881-5298.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Halloween in the Campground on Oct. 26
Campers will decorate sites and children will trick or treat. There will also be hayrides and a bonfire. 6-9 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Cove Lakes hosts 7th Annual Louie Bluie Festival on Oct. TBA
This all-day family-fun festival features three stages of music, storytelling and theater, a Kid's Fun Zone, art and handmade crafts, and regional food vendors will be serving up a mouthwatering array of authentic Southern cooking, East Tennessee style. The Louie Bluie Festival is named in honor of Howard "Louie Bluie" Armstrong (1909-2003), a LaFollette native and internationally acclaimed string band musician who grew up in LaFollette in the 1920s and became one of the nation's finest string band musicians, as well as artist, storyteller, and writer. A \$2 per person/\$5 per family donation is encouraged and funds Campbell Culture Coalition, an all-volunteer non-profit community arts organization. For more information call 423-566-9701.

NOVEMBER

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Fall Stare Gaze on Nov. 1 & 2
Join us to view the night sky, learn about night sky viewing equipment, and engage in discussion with individuals experienced in the field of astronomy. Feel free to bring your telescope if you have one! For more info, visit www.CumberlandAstronomicalSociety.org or contact Lloyd Watkins at watkinslk@comcast.net.

Rugby SNA (plateau) hosts On-going Rowdy, Rugged, Rugbians Spiraea Pull on Nov. 2
We're serious! The Rowdy, Rugged Rugbians continue their battle to save the Rugby State Natural Area from a dreadful Japanese spiraea invasion. If you want to have breakfast with us before the event, we'll meet at the Harrow Road Café in Historic Rugby for breakfast at 9 a.m. ET. We'll go into the natural area approximately 10 a.m. ET, starting from the Visitors' Centre parking lot. The weather could be crisp, so wear layers. Bring your work gloves, too. We always have fun. Just ask any of the Rowdy, Rugged Rugbians! For more information contact leader Lisa Huff at lisa.huff@tn.gov. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas

Edgar Evins (middle) hosts Fall Color Cruise on Nov. 2
Sponsored by the Friends of Edgar Evins State Park, this cruise is sure to delight as we view the fall scenery and homes of country stars. Admission \$10 per person and reservations are required. For adults, and children over age 3 accompanied by an adult. We start accepting reservations the 1st of October each year. Cruises are approximately 2 hours long. For more information and to RSVP call 931-858-2114 or 800-250-8619.

Johnsonville (middle) hosts Historic Walking Tour on Nov. 2 & 3
149th Anniversary Living History to commemorate the Battle of Johnsonville which took place on November 4, 1864. The event will include infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations. At 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3rd, an anniversary walking tour about the Battle of Johnsonville will take place. Meet at the upper redoubt parking area by 1:45. Scheduled cannon firings will take place on the hour during each day. For more information call 931-535-2789.

Nathan Bedford Forrest (west) hosts NSSA Skirmish on Nov. 2 & 3
Target competitions with soldiers dressed in Confederate and Union attire. Set up will be at the Ball Field. The Friends of Nathan Bedford Forrest will be selling snack and drinks. Bar-B-Q will also be available for purchase. For more information call 731-584-6356.

Roan Mountain (east) hosts Old Time Yule on Nov. 9
Roan Mountain State Park ends the year by wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas. Come experience how Christmas was celebrated years. For more information call 423-772-0190.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Garrison Weekend on Nov. 9 & 10
Garrison Weekend is a time when the daily lives of the men, women and children of Fort Loudoun are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at Fort Loudoun. Visitors can view an 18th century infirmary, the soldier's barracks, the commander's quarters, blacksmith shop and a Cherokee encampment. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Harvest Celebration at Fort Watauga on Nov. 16 & 17
Saturday, November 16 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, November 17 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
It's a jollification! The Washington County Militia musters its troops for good times and good cheer! Re-enactors in period dress provide demonstrations of old-time skills and scenes from daily life in America's colonial past. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Backpacking Trip on November 16 & 17
Join us for a 13-mile trek through some of the more remote portions of the park. This hike is for both novices and experienced backpackers and includes a 2-day guided hike with an overnight camp. There is a \$10 fee and pre-registration is required. Contact the Nature Center at 423-881-5708.

Standing Stone (plateau) hosts Big Foot Scramble 5K Run on November 16
Join us for this scenic 5m run through Standing Stone State Park. This event is part of the State Parks Running Tour and is sponsored by the Frostbite Running Club. For more information call Lynn Burnett, 931-823-6124 or liv2run@live.com.

Nathan Bedford Forrest (west) hosts Lighting of the Knob on November 30
Join park staff and the Friends of Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park as we kick off the holiday season with the Lighting of the Knob. There will be visits with Santa, festive music, food and fellowship. The knob will be officially lit at 6 p.m. CT and transportation will be provided. For more information call 731-584-6356.

DECEMBER

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Pioneer 5 Mile Run on Dec TBA

Join us for an exhilarating run through our park and the Limestone community. This is part of the Tennessee State Parks Running Tour and all runners must be registered to enter. For more information please contact Mr. Bob Townsend at 423-257-6188 or 423-426-6709 or bobt4@earthlink.net.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Winterfest Art Show Dec. 1

Month of December until January 4th

Opening Reception: Sunday, December 1 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Kick off the holidays at Sycamore Shoals! The Watauga Valley Art League exhibition and sale begins with a reception on December 1 with great opportunities for holiday shopping! Artwork from the Watauga Valley Art League will remain on display in the museum during regular park hours throughout the month of December until January 4th. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Lamplight Christmas Wreath Exhibit Dec. 1

Month of December until January 4th

A visit to the park Visitors Center is sure to inspire as the rooms will be graced with wreaths of all designs and colors hung from old time lampposts. Please contact the park 7 to request a place in this show. Wreaths will be made by community members, civic groups, and schools to bring to life the Christmas spirit of our region. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Christmas at the Carter Mansion on Dec. 6 & 7

Spend a candlelit evening in the oldest frame house in Tennessee, decorated with bright greenery for the holidays. Enjoy music, refreshments, and costumed interpreters acting out scenes from an 18th century Christmas. 6- 9 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-543-5808.

Fall Creek Falls (plateau) hosts Christmas on the Mountain on Dec. 6-8

Join us for a weekend of Yuletide fun, holiday music, handmade crafts and gifts for the little ones. Activities include making Christmas crafts, storytelling, breakfast with Santa, and a 3-day mountain craft show for everyone. For more information call 423-881-5708.

Cordell Hull Birthplace (middle) hosts Christmas in the Park on Dec. 7

Join park staff as we celebrate the holidays the way they were enjoyed in the late nineteenth century, the time period in which former Secretary of State Cordell Hull lived in this rural area on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. Come on out for this holiday open house which includes refreshments and seasonal decorations in the restored birthplace cabin. The park is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT. For more information call 931-864-3247.

Cordell Hull Birthplace (middle) hosts Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Dec. 7

Join park staff as we commemorate Pearl Harbor Day, the day that officially launched the United States' entry into WWII. We will observe the occasion with a display of highlights of the infamous Pearl Harbor attack as well as a showcase on Sec. Hull's Nobel Peace Prize, which he received in 1945 for his role in creating the U.N. The park is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT. For more information call 931-864-3247.

Fort Loudoun (east) hosts Christmas Garrison on Dec. 7

(East) Celebrate Christmas in the 18th century style with native greenery, carols and wassail. Re-enactors will bring these and other 18th century lifestyles back to life with blacksmithing demonstrations, musket and artillery firings plus a special candlelight tour of Fort Loudoun. Daytime hours: 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. ET. The candlelight tour will commence at 6 p.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. ET. For more information call 423-884-6217.

Davy Crockett Birthplace (east) hosts Crockett Christmas on Dec. 7

Crockett Christmas is a living history event that will provide visitors with a glimpse of Christmas past on the frontier. The birthplace cabin will be decorated in pioneer spirit. Traditional storytelling will be provided along with hot wassail and edibles common to that period. The path to the cabin will be lit by candlelight and a nice warm fire in the cabin and outside the cabin will keep you toasty warm. Event time will be 4:00-8:00 pm for Saturday. One day only. For more information contact: Dawn.Coleman@tn.gov.

Warriors' Path (east) hosts Adopt A Tree on Dec. 7

All area young people are invited to help bring "re-leaf" to Kingsport from 10 to noon ET. We'll be distributing free tree seedlings, to plant in the park and to plant at home. Help begin tomorrow's forests! Free. For more information call 423-239-6786 or 423-239-8531 or email marty.silver@tn.gov.

Sycamore Shoals (east) hosts Fife & Drum Corps on Dec. 14

The Fife & Drum Corps performs at historical events, dedications, and parades. This group is open to anyone ages 13 & up. Musical experience is welcome but not necessary; just come with a willingness to learn. Meet our volunteer coordinator John Large at the Sycamore Shoals Visitors Center. Lessons are free of charge, just call and let us know you're coming! For more information call 423-543-5808.

Sgt. Alvin C. York (middle) hosts Christmas in the Valley on Dec. 14

For more information call 931-879-6456.

Norris Dam hosts Holiday Homecoming Celebration on Dec. 14 (5-9 p.m. ET)

Join us for a walk through time discovering old time traditions representing Tennessee Holiday Homecomings in the local region. Celebrations will take place on the east side of the park as our rustic cabin area transforms into a winter village of festivities for the holiday season. The community and local organizations will be participating in holiday activities that include; live animal demonstrations, historical depiction of Appalachian life, horse-drawn wagon rides, old-time music, and holiday treats. Parking will be a short distance from the event area, with handicapped parking available. Please expect to walk approximately one mile, so dress warmly, comfortably and bring a flashlight for an evening outdoors amongst the rustic cabins! For more information please call the park office at 865-426-7461.